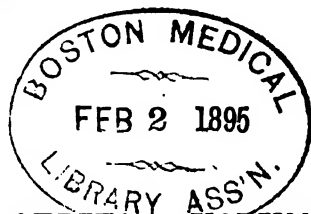


*H. M. R.*

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1894.

These can be made with ol. theobrom. gr. xii, but a sticky and tough mass is formed, which is not very soluble. A better preparation is obtained by using ol. theobrom. gr. x and ung. cetacei gr. iii. They are also more easily prepared if melted in tinfoil.

R Ferri Alumin. .... gr. iii.

Ol. Theobrom. q. s. ft. suppos.

This is an unusual medicament in a suppository. They require great care in manipulation, as over-heating causes the salt to aggregate at the point of the suppository.

R Cocaine ..... 5 p.c.  
in Parolein ..... 3i.

The cocaine dissolves with heat, but is mostly thrown out on cooling. The prescriber sanctioned the substitution of almond oil.

These items having been discussed, Mr. F. C. Larkin, F.R.C.S., delivered an interesting lecture on—

#### ANIMAL EXTRACTS AS THERAPEUTIC AGENTS.

The lecturer began by describing the animal therapeutics of the ancients, and showed that the new idea of fighting disease with animal extracts was perhaps after all an elaboration of the therapeutics of our ancestors. In the 17th century animal substances were largely used in medicine, some of them not altogether without a show of reason; for instance, foxes' lungs for asthma, essence of serpents for bites, decoction of earthworms for worms, &c. In the B.P. of 1864 the only true internal remedies of an animal nature were cantharides, musk, cod liver oil, and ox-gall. But though obliterated from the books they still remained floating about in the mind of man, and about thirty years ago began to rise to the surface of the great ocean of ideas, and have since then been creeping into our journals and pharmacopœias. Modern chemistry has modified greatly our ideas of organic matter. It has introduced many refinements into medicine, and taught us how best to administer our remedies. We must remember in these days of chemistry there is no such thing as abstract virtue and principle; it is chemical compound and nothing else. The empiricism of to-day is practical, the old empiricism was theoretical. For instance, ague was treated by extract of swallows on the assumption that because swallows fly away quickly, an extract of swallows would cause the ague to fly away; while modern empiricism gives quinine, because it has shown that ague is a parasitic animal micro-organism, to which quinine is fatal. The modern administration of animal extracts is of two kinds—(1) the giving the product of a healthy part to cure a similar unhealthy part in man. Its great apostle is Brown-Sequard. (2) The giving the product of a diseased animal to cure or prevent the same disease in man ("the hair of the dog that bit him"). Its great apostles are Pasteur and Koch. The lecturer then entered into the details of Brown-Sequard's reasoning and experiments with the generative organs, and mentioned that most English observers had not experienced the same success with the testicular juice. Having described Brown-Sequard's experiments with the pancreatic juice, Dr. Larkin gave a lengthy description of the thyroid gland and its uses, and mentioned that until lately its functions were unknown, and it was looked upon as a godsend to the surgeon. The fatal effect of the removal of the thyroid in goitre as studied by Kocher, and the discovery of myxœdema by Dr. Ord were then described. Children who from birth show the characters of myxœdema are known as cretins. They are idiots and dwarfs, with thick lips and coarse skin, and though they may live thirty years, always remain such. In old Egypt these cretins were venerated as superior beings. Dr. Larkin then described the experiments by Kocher and others which led up to

the injection of the thyroid juice as suggested by Brown-Sequard. Dr. Murray, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was the first to carry this out in October, 1891, using the sheep's thyroid with marked success. The administration, however, must be continued, as relapse occurs if it is stopped. The lecturer concluded by describing the various forms of administration, and said that he had really only touched on one phase of his subject. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides; also by samples of thyroïdin powder, extract, and tablets. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. R. C. Cowley, and seconded by Mr. J. G. Jackson, was accorded to the lecturer.

#### CAMBRIDGE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A highly successful smoking concert was given by members and friends on Thursday, the 22nd ult., at the Bijou Theatre, Cambridge, Mr. Alderman Deck in the chair. A programme, excellently arranged by Mr. E. H. Church, was heartily appreciated by an audience of between fifty and sixty.

#### THREE TOWNS AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the junior section of this Association was held at the Foresters' Hall, Octagon, Plymouth, on Thursday, February 22, at 8.30 p.m. Mr. E. Green was elected Chairman for the ensuing twelve months. A proposal asking the general committee to allow the apprentices to elect a representative was deferred until the next meeting. It was then announced that arrangements were being made by the Committee of an important educational character. A proposal was carried that the next meeting (March 15) should be partly educational and social. It was afterwards resolved that special efforts should be made to bring in the few outside assistants and apprentices as members, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

### Scottish Transactions.

#### GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual supper of this Association took place on Thursday, February 22, at the Bath Hotel, Bath Street, when over 100 gentlemen were present, and the chair was occupied by the President, Mr. W. L. Currie, who was supported by Professor Gairdner, M.P., President of the Royal College of Physicians; Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing, Edinburgh, Chairman of the Executive of the North British Branch; Mr. J. Nesbit, Portobello, Chairman of the Board of Examiners for Scotland; Mr. D. Storrar, Kirkcaldy, member of Council of the Pharmaceutical Society; Dr. T. B. Henderson, Dr. Love, Dr. G. B. Todd, Dr. Mechain, Mr. R. McAdam, Mr. A. Kinninmont, Mr. J. McMillan, Mr. C. Kerr, Dundee, Vice-Chairman of the Executive of the North British Branch; Mr. Rankin, Mr. Sutherland, Dumfries; Mr. Allan, Dumfries; Mr. R. Brodie, Mr. J. Rankin, Mr. J. Rutherford Hill, Edinburgh. The croupiers were Dr. A. M. Robertson and Messrs. S. McCall Fraser and W. Greig, who were supported by Dr. Adam, Dr. Illingworth, and Messrs. Mowat, Macdonald, Law, and Edwards.

Apologies for unavoidable absence were intimated from a number of gentlemen, and the usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured,

Mr. R. McAdam, Convener of the Committee, explained the steps which had been taken in getting up the testimonial to Mr. Alexander Kinninmont. The response to the Committee's appeal had been very hearty and liberal. The sum of £100 would, by Mr. Kinninmont's express desire, be put into a Kinninmont